

REFERENCE: APPROVED MINUTES – June 9, 2005 Public Charter School Commission Meeting

**PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL COMMISSION MEETING
THURSDAY, JUNE 9, 2005
BOISE STATE UNIVERSITY
BOISE, IDAHO**

A regular meeting of the Idaho Public Charter School Commission was held on Thursday, June 9, 2005 at the Jordan Ballroom in the Student Union Building on the Boise State University campus, Boise, Idaho. Chairman Hammond presided. The following members were present:

Kirk Miller
Marianne Donnelly

Ann Souza
Paul Powell

Esther Van Wart

Commissioner Goesling was absent.

Chairman Hammond called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m.

1. Commission Work

a) Agenda Approval

Chairman Hammond asked the Commissioners if there were any additions or revisions to the agenda. The agenda was approved as submitted.

b) Rolling Calendar

The Commission considered possible rolling calendar dates for future meetings.

M/S (Souza/Donnelly): To approve Thursday, February 9, 2006 and Thursday, April 6, 2006 as the dates and Boise, Idaho as the location for upcoming regularly scheduled Commission meetings. *The motion passed unanimously.*

c) Minutes Approval

The Commission considered minutes submitted from the May 12, 2005 meeting.

M/S (Donnelly/Van Wart): To approve the minutes from May 12, 2005 as submitted. *The motion passed unanimously.*

2. Richard McKenna Charter High School

Representatives from Richard McKenna, formerly Idaho Virtual High School, presented an update on their school to the Commission. Richard McKenna became authorized by the Commission on September 28, 2004. Larry Slade, administrator at Richard McKenna Charter High School, addressed the Commission.

Mr. Slade stated the current enrollment of Richard McKenna was approximately 225 students attending online, with 55 on-site students. He also noted that 37 students graduated from the high school this spring. Mr. Slade reported on the school's spring ISAT results as well.

Mr. Slade also updated the Commission on the status of the school's physical facility. He explained the school is considering purchasing three acres in Mountain Home to build their own facility; they are leasing their current facility.

Chairman Hammond asked Mr. Slade if the school is gathering data on where the graduating senior students go, whether it be school or a job. Mr. Slade noted that this year was the first graduating class, but they were headed to vocational schools, the workforce, the military, and some are enrolled in college courses.

3. Idaho Virtual Academy

Representatives from Idaho Virtual Academy (IDVA) came before the Commission requesting an amendment to their charter allowing the addition of the 9th grade to their school. Idaho Virtual Academy became authorized by the Idaho Public Charter School Commission on October 28, 2004. IDVA initially presented this amendment to the Commission at the May 12, 2005 meeting where Commissioners requested more information.

Chairman Hammond asked staff to update the Commission on IDVA's special education compliance hearing with the State Department of Education. Christine Ivie, Commission Staff, explained the steps that have been taken to rectify the situation since the problem was discovered. She noted that Commission staff was satisfied with the new policies and procedures that IDVA has taken to solve the Special Education problems.

David Meyers of the Governing Board and Cody Claver, School Administrator, addressed the Commission. Mr. Meyers gave Commissioners an update on the steps taken by the Governing Board to comply with the special education requirements. IDVA has also hired a new special education supervisor, implemented a new service tracking system, and has sent revised special education plans to the State Department of Education.

Commissioner Miller asked that IDVA copy staff on all correspondence going to the State Department of Education.

Commissioner Van Wart asked how the hearing officer's decision to issue a penalty

would affect IDVA's budget. Mr. Myers noted that based on discussions and arrangements made with K12, Inc., they (K12, Inc.) are financially responsible for the penalty.

Commissioner Souza asked for clarification regarding the roles and authority of K12, Inc. and IDVA's Governing Board. Mr. Myers explained that the previous special education manager was an employee of K12, Inc., and it is their responsibility to make sure services are documented. He continued and explained that it is the Board's responsibility to ensure the employees of K12, Inc. are complying with the law.

Commissioner Miller asked Tom Farley, from the State Department of Education, if what IDVA has summarized of the special education situation was accurate from the State Department's view. Mr. Farley noted that the situation was being resolved and the Department has a positive outlook regarding the changes made to IDVA's special education procedures.

Vickie Scheuffele, IDVA's Senior Academic Officer, presented the Commission with a demonstration of how the online classes are conducted.

Chairman Hammond opened the floor for public testimony. Mindy Vance, parent of IDVA students, testified before the Commission. Ms. Vance testified about her experiences with IDVA and the way this program helped her daughter progress academically.

Commissioner Miller asked representatives from IDVA about their anticipated fund balance at the end of the 2004-2005 fiscal year. Ben Buckendorf, financial manager for IDVA, answered that it is anticipated that there will be a zero fund balance. Mr. Buckendorf explained that the pending service agreement will answer most of those budget questions.

M/S (Powell/Miller): A motion to approve the amendment to the charter for Idaho Virtual Academy to add the 9th grade to their charter, beginning in the 2005-2006 school year, and allowing the school the option of adding an additional grade with each succeeding year. Motion passed 3-2, with Commissioners Donnelly and Souza voting nay.

4. Rolling Hills Public Charter School

Representatives from Rolling Hills Public Charter School updated the Commission on their progress towards opening their school in the fall. The Charter School Commission authorized Rolling Hills on September 17, 2004.

Doug Varie, Member of Rolling Hills' Governing Board, addressed the Commission.

Mr. Varie explained that they anticipate opening up this fall and being housed in

portable facilities. He also talked about their new administrator, the successful completion of their lottery, and hiring and training of teachers.

Commissioner Powell asked Mr. Very to update in more detail the situation with facilities. Mr. Very explained that the Board is considering their options of where to place the modulars, which include three possible locations.

Commissioner Souza asked the representative from Rolling Hills Public Charter School what district their site was located in. Mr. Very answered that two of the three sites were located in the Boise School District. He explained that their permanent location was located in the Boise School District, but right on the edge of the Meridian School District.

Commissioner Donnelly asked staff to clarify that there were not two schools scheduled to open this fall in the Meridian School District. Commissioner Staff said that they would clarify the situation.

5. Garden City Community School

Representatives from Garden City Community School addressed the Commission. Matthew Shapiro, Liz Hall, and Kathy Galdos were in attendance.

Mr. Shapiro explained to the Commissioners the changes made to the petition after meeting with Commission staff. These changes included updated policies, amended bylaws, and certified elector petition forms.

Chairman Hammond opened the floor for discussion.

Commissioner Powell asked petitioners about the preferences for admissions listed in the petition and wanted to know what the ranking of preferences was. Mr. Shapiro answered that the preferences were prioritized as: 1) founders, 2) siblings, 3) Garden City residents, and 4) out of area applicants.

Commissioner Van Wart asked Mr. Shapiro about a proposed LEP program. Mr. Shapiro stated that the petition allows for individualized instruction time that can be used for students with those needs. They have also looked at the possibility of having dual immersion classes.

Commissioner Miller asked representatives from Garden City about program development and who is putting the program development. Mr. Shapiro noted that there is a budget line item called "training"

Commissioner Donnelly commented that she appreciated the innovation that was used in Garden City's petition, and that the Commission should be fostering innovation.

Commission Powell asked petitioners to what degree the students will be creating and

modifying their learning plans. Matthew Shapiro, president of the Board, answered that as the year progresses the student input will increase.

Commissioner Miller commented that the petition and its focus needed narrowing.

Chairman Hammond noted that, if ultimately approved, the "Season 1, ages 3-5" reference would need to be eliminated from page 20 of the petition.

Commissioner Souza commented that her biggest complaint with the charters the Commission has authorized have been "cookie-cutter" and one of the reasons for her support was the uniqueness of the Garden City petition.

M/S (Powell/Donnelly): A motion to approve the petition from Garden City Community School. *Motion passed 3-2, with Commissioners Van Wart and Miller voting nay.*

Chairman Hammond adjourned the meeting at 1:00 p.m.

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